for use of planting materials of advanced growth raised in polybags etc.

Scindia Steam Navigation Company

*234. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much money has been provided by the Shipping Credit and Investment Corporation of India for payment of debts by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company;

(b) the manner in which the money is proposed to be recovered;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to hand over the Scindia Steam Navigation Company to ESSAR; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Shipping Development Fund Committee was abolished w.e.f. 3-4-1987 and its assets and liabilities were taken over by the Government of India. Scindia Steam Navigation Company was one of the companies financed by erstwhile SDFC. The Company was in default of its repayment obligations. The Shipping Credit and Investment Co. of India Ltd. (SCICI) as designated person, in exercise of powers under Chapter-III of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986 has appointed a Receiver and has also reconstituted the Board of this Company. Govt. have advanced to Scindia Steam Navigation Co. since take over of assets and liabilities of erstwhile SDFC till 30th April, 1988 a sum of approximately Rs. 27.9 crores as loan for meeting various payments of an urgent nature such as guarantee obligations, insurance premia, port charges, bunkers for stranded vessels, unloading of vessels, payment of wages to crew, etc. These advances have been secured by obtaining a mortgage on the immovable properties of the company.

(c) and (d) Various alternatives have been explored regarding the future of Scindia Steam Navigation Company. In this behalf, certain private sector companies including ESSAR also had expressed their interest in taking over the Company.

Strength of Indian Forest Service Personnel

*235. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total strength of Indian Forest Service personnel in the country as on 31st March, 1988, Statewise;

(b) whether the strength of the Indian Forest Service personnel is sufficient to meet the requirements of the Department of Forests; and

(c) if not, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to augment the strength?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha (*See* below).

(b) The strength is sufficient to meet the requirements.

(c) Does not airse.